



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies.

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Update from the IAA Network Leads

Greetings! I hope that each of you have had an opportunity to watch some of the 2010 Olympic Games. Throughout the Games, and since last summer, we have been amazed by the talent of these athletes, and information about the dedication of time that these individuals have been putting into their practice since a very early age. As the Olympics have changed in recent history through sponsorships, they are no longer open to the very wealthy and young people with talent have options like never before to participate. Even so, many students do not have the creative outlets or support systems to meet their own Olympic-size goals. That is why it is important that afterschool programming continue to be offered in a variety of forms that benefit students with different needs. Afterschool is one of the only types of educational and enrichment opportunities that do not take one-size-fits all approach. Afterschool programs occur before school, after school, in the evenings, weekends, school and other breaks, school in-service days, or for late starts or early dismissals.

As the winter months seem to drag on and snowstorms and school cancellations extend our school days into the summer, many have been asking: how do we make up this important learning time? Those of us who have had the opportunity to learn about what out-of-school time programming can do to impact student learning and development already know the answer: provide options for students during the as many as 30 hours per week that students are out of school and parents are still at work. As Iowa's America After 3 pm

study shows, 32 percent of the state's schoolchildren are on their own in the afternoons, and another 13 percent are in the care of their brothers or sisters. That time after school not only provides safety concerns, but also is lost learning time where students could be building skills in core subjects and developing 21st century skills such as leadership and project management. As we prepare students for an unknown future, we must look beyond the hours spent in school and recognize that we all have a role in re-imagining learning and education and that this change should include options for expansion of knowledge and experiences during out-of-school time.



Sincerely,

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance Team

Brooke Findley, Michelle Rich, Amelia Colwell, and Burke Milnes

Thinkfinity from the Verizon Foundation

The Verizon Foundation's Thinkfinity website provides useful information and resources on afterschool activities, curriculums, and program administration. The information can be found <http://www.thinkfinity.org/AfterSchoolSelResource.aspx?limit=CI2>.

Connect a Million Minds!

Connect a Million Minds is an initiative designed to connect youth with afterschool opportunities that inspire them to develop important science, technology, math, and engineering skills they need to become the problem solvers of tomorrow. To learn more visit www.connectamillionminds.com.

PPICS Data Collection for 21st Century Community Learning Centers

The Profile and Performance Information Collection System (PPICS) developed by the U.S. Department of Education is a system developed to track data on 21st Century Community Learning Centers nationwide. PPICS provides data on attendance, demographics, resources, and the activities and services offered by various sites. This information can be found at <http://ppics.learningpt.org>.

Quick Facts on School-Age Care: Trends in Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS)

This resource offers a two-page overview of state policy trends in quality rating and improvement systems for school-age care, including a map showing which states have incorporated specific school-age indicators in their statewide quality rating and improvement systems. The resource is available online at <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/afterschool/qr/trends.pdf>.

Afterschool Investments wants to hear from you about Inclusion!

Afterschool Investments Project is working to develop tools and materials on how Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) state administrators can support inclusion of children with special needs in school-age care. They are seeking to learn about how state administrators are encouraging inclusion in their states. For example, Afterschool Investments is interested

in knowing how CCDF quality funds are used to ensure regulations, program guidelines, core competencies or QRIS standards address the needs of school-age children with special needs or the needs of school-age programs and practitioners to implement inclusive programs? What is working? What kinds of supports are needed? If you would be willing to share your efforts, suggestions or challenges contact Shawn Stelow Griffin at [sstelow@financeproject.org](mailto:sselow@financeproject.org).



Do You Know... Monica Ryan-Rausch from Four Oaks

The IAA is proud to introduce a new “Do you know” section of the newsletter to profile various afterschool professionals and their organizations throughout the state.

Four Oaks, a non-profit child welfare, juvenile justice, and behavioral health agency was founded in 1973 and is headquartered in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It offers services to children and families in all 99 Iowa counties serving over 14,000 people annually throughout the state in 14 Iowa cities. Four Oaks carries out its mission to “assure children become successful adults” by providing holistic prevention, intervention, and treatment programs and services. Four Oaks is nationally accredited. Four Oaks is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors from the Cedar Rapids-Marion-Iowa City professional and business community.

- 1. What is your role at Four Oaks?** I am the Program Coordinator for the Autism Spectrum Services and programs that we offer in the Cedar Rapids community. I oversee the afterschool program that serves middle school and high school aged youth who have Asperger’s syndrome. I have been with Four Oaks for 18 years, having been involved in many services and programs that are offered.
- 2. What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?** There are many elements that are rewarding to me in my job at Four Oaks. Being able to make a difference in the lives of youth aiding them in developing their social skills and self confidence is very exciting to me. I have gained so much from my years at Four Oaks. Working with the youth in the Asperger program has helped to develop an appreciation for precious, special friendships and the relationships in life.
- 3. What one word would you use to describe yourself?** “Open-minded”
- 4. What do you enjoy in your free time?** I enjoy traveling, volunteering, conducting workshops/trainings, fitness and photography.

For more information on Four Oaks, contact Monica at mrausch@fouroaks.org.

State Legislative Update

Last month, the second week of February marked the first “funnel week” of this year’s legislative session in Iowa. During the first funnel week, bills must be passed out of a committee in one chamber in order to be considered “alive”. Exceptions to this rule include bills in Appropriations, Ways and Means, and a few other rare scenarios. Funnel week is notoriously busy, considering the volume of bills that have to be passed through committees, and this year’s first funnel week was no exception.

The House of Representatives recently passed state reorganization legislation unanimously. Provisions in the bill are projected to save the state \$124.3 million by consolidating computer systems, capping subsidies, closing two prison work farms, and hiring workers to

better collect taxes owed to the state, among others. The provisions in the bill are estimated to save \$68.2 million to the state's general fund and \$56.1 million in other accounts. The Senate's version of the bill that passed on February 1 is estimated to save an additional \$1.9 million more than the House version, so the bill will return to the Senate for further consideration.



Two of the more controversial provisions, one to place early childhood programs, including Community Empowerment, under the Department of Education and a proposal to close one of Iowa's mental health institutes, were not included in the final House version of the bill. An amendment ([H-8076](#)) sponsored by Representative Tyler Olson was adopted and includes provisions to:

- » Retain the placement of Community Empowerment under the Department of Management.
- » Expand the membership of the Early Childhood Iowa Board to 15 citizen members and 6 designated agency representatives.
- » Continue Early Childhood Iowa stakeholders group administered by Iowa Department of Public Health.
- » Require programs and services funded under Early Childhood Iowa funds to cooperate with the Department of Education and local education agencies in assigning unique student identifier numbers for program participants.
- » Add an additional duty of the Early Childhood Iowa Board to establish criteria to ensure effective fiscal management for all area Boards.

On February 17, Democrats released their budget targets, which propose an additional \$261 million in cuts when compared to Governor Culver's budget. In the proposal, the hardest hit area is the health and human services budget, which is cut to \$954.3 million in this year's targets, as compared to last year's budget of \$1.3 billion (which was also the Governor's budget target). In education, the Governor and Democrats aligned on the proposed funding level of \$860.9 million.

Below is a list of bills the Iowa Afterschool Alliance is tracking that are still alive.

Education Infrastructure Spending [SSB3225](#)

In Ways and Means.

This bill requires the Department of Education, with assistance from the state auditor, to collect specific information, relating to the expenditure of statewide school infrastructure funding under Code chapters 423E and 423F, from school districts' financial audits.

Teacher Incentives; High Crime Areas [HF2440](#) (formerly [HF620](#)).

Passed House. Referred to Senate Education.

Establishes market factor teacher incentives for school district attendance centers located in areas that have high rates of crime.

School Districts; Prioritized Resources; School Day Extension [HF2413](#)

(formerly [HF2189](#))

Introduced and placed on calendar.

An Act directing school districts to prioritize resources in order to meet the goal of increasing the minimum days or hours of instructional time offered in a school year.



Department of Education; Local School Boards [SF2288](#) (formerly [SSB3136](#)).

Approved by Senate Education. Passed Senate.

An Act making numerous changes relating to the duties and operations of the Department of Education and local school boards.

[HF2492](#) (formerly [HSB623](#)) is a similar bill.

Introduced and placed on calendar.

Laptops and Textbooks [SF2178](#)

Approved by the Senate Education Committee. Referred to House Education.

Expands the definition of textbooks to include laptop computers or other portable personal computing devices used for nonreligious instructional use provided to public and accredited nonpublic school students.

School District Income Surtax [SSB3199](#)

In Ways and Means.

An Act allowing school districts to use an income surtax to raise cash reserves in addition to or instead of property taxes and including effective date and applicability provisions.

Area Education Agencies Task Force [HF2295](#) (formerly [HSB658](#))

Passed House. In Senate Education.

An Act establishing a task force to review the present mission, structure, governance, and funding of the area education agencies.

Juvenile Justice Advisory Council [SF2252](#) (formerly [SSB3156](#)).

Approved by Senate Judiciary. Passed Senate.

An Act relating to the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Advisory Council, establishing a public safety advisory board, and providing for implementation.

Department of Education and Local School Boards; Special Duties [SF2291](#) (formerly [SSB3135](#)).

Passed Senate. Passed House.

An Act relating to special education rights and duties and to the related duties and operations of the department of education and local school boards.

School Foundation Levy Tax [SSB3125](#)

In Way and Means.

This bill provides that the \$5.40 School Foundation Levy shall not be divided for urban renewal purposes for urban renewal plans adopted on or after the effective date of the bill. Under the bill, such taxes shall instead be paid to the school district.

School District Accreditation Process [SF2289](#) (formerly [SSB3137](#)).

Approved by Senate Education. Passed Senate. In House Education.

Relates to the de-accreditation process for a school district by the State Board of Education.



Private Schools; Accreditation and Standards [SF2287](#) (Formerly [SSB3138](#)).

Approved by Senate Education.

This bill restricts the state board of education from adding to the special accredited list of college preparatory schools after the effective date of the bill.

Childcare Pilot Project [SF414](#)

Re-Introduced. Last action 2009, Referred to Human Resources.

This bill provides for a pilot project supporting high quality childcare for low-income children under the state child care assistance program in Code section 237A.13.

The state childcare assistance program is funded through a federal block grant and state funds.

Childcare Provider's Criminal History Checks [HF 2283](#) (formerly [HF2056](#))

Approved by Human Resources. Passed House. Referred to Senate Human Resources.

The bill replaces a requirement for repeating the national criminal check requirement every four years for licensed child care providers, with an authorization for the department of human services to adopt rules specifying criteria in the public interest for requiring the national check of a person to be repeated.

Charter Schools Improvement; Innovation Zones [SF 2033](#) (formerly [SSB 3031](#))

Passed Senate. Passed House. Signed by Governor.

An Act relating to school improvement and the approval and revocation of charter schools, the establishment of innovation zone schools by consortia of school districts and area education agencies, and the implementation of interventions for persistently low achieving schools. Removes the limit for the number of charters schools permitted in the state as well as the charter school repeal date of July 1, 2011.

School Budget Review Committee [HF2030](#)

Passed House. Passed Senate. Signed by Governor.

Modifies the membership of the School Budget Review Committee and the committee's duties relating to school district unusual financial circumstances.

State Percent Growth Delay [SF2045](#) (formerly [SSB3043](#))

Passed Senate. Passed House. Signed by Governor.

This bill delays establishing the state percent of growth, also known as allowable growth, for the budget year beginning July 1, 2011, from the 2010 Legislative Session to the 2011 Legislative Session.

Categorical State Percent of Growth Delay [SF2046](#) (formerly [SSB3033](#))

Passed Senate. Passed House. Signed by Governor.

Placed on Calendar. Proposed Committee on Education bill by Chairperson Wendt.

Delays establishing the categorical state percent of growth, also known as categorical

allowable growth, for purposes of the state school foundation program for the budget year beginning July 1, 2011, from the 2010 Legislative Session to the 2011 Legislative Session.

Equipment Levy Funds; School Districts [SF2290](#) (formerly [SF2010](#))

Approved by Senate Education.

An Act relating to the uses of physical plant and equipment levy funds by school districts.

[HF2462](#) is a similar bill. (Formerly [HF2040](#)).

Placed on calendar.



Professional Development and Events

Free Safety and Health Training for Businesses Working with Youth

Iowa Workforce Development and the State Employer's Council of Iowa will be offering free safety training at the Des Moines Botanical Center on March 24th. The trainers for the workshop are from the University of California – Berkeley's School of Public Health. To register, go to <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/safetyworkshops/>.

IAA and IPTV Literacy Iowa Communications Network Series

Due to the success of the first ICN session on PBS Literacy Development Tools in January, a series of ICN sessions has been scheduled with Trista Peitzman from Iowa Public Television! Below are descriptions of upcoming sessions as well as links to register. All sessions are held free of charge.

Super Why Preschool Summer Camp for Before and After School Providers

http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=10323

March 4, 1:00-2:30pm

Considering a preschool camp for children entering Kindergarten this fall but don't know where to find the curriculum? Check out this session to learn more about Super Why!, a PBS KIDS program designed for children ages 2-5 and how you can receive the camp curriculum at no charge. Trista Peitzman will explain the research behind the broadcast program, the pilot program including 4 camps held in Iowa, and the amazing results we have seen. You will also learn how to set up your own weeklong camp for kids, materials needed, and approx. cost per child.

Literacy Development Tools for Before and After School Programs (Grades 2-6)

http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=10325

March 9, 1:00-2:30pm

Do you wish you had access to new, engaging, motivating literacy resources that were created to get your older students excited about reading? How about ones that were proven by recent research studies to actually work? Join us for this ICN session sponsored by the Iowa Afterschool Alliance to learn about these free resources and how to use them with your program. Trista Peitzman of Iowa Public Television will give an overview of PBS programs and resources that are available to you. We will watch video clips from the programs, view games online, and learn how you can engage your students in learning activities.

Martha Speaks for Educators & Before and After School Providers

http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=10362

March 11, 1:30-3:00pm

Martha Speaks is an animated series on PBS KIDS. Aimed at viewers between the ages of four and seven, Martha's educational goal is to help kids understand what words mean when they hear them; words like retrieve, sprout, and crave. Vocabulary is one thing that predicts if children will be good readers. Once they are in school and they see these words, children will need to know what they mean. If children have heard the words before, that familiarity will help them as they learn to read. Martha Speaks is designed to teach up to 20 words in each show. And how better to get kids excited about learning and trying out new words than with a talking dog, who just can't stop talking?! Join us for this ICN session sponsored by the Iowa Afterschool Alliance to learn about these free resources and how to use them with your program. We will watch some video clips, learn more about the author, and check out Martha's Web site, which is full of games, activities and resources for caregivers and educators. We will also hear the experts speak about vocabulary through video segments and learn about the new Reading Buddies curriculum (partners children in Grade 3 or 4 with K) that is available to you at no charge.

Literacy Development Tools for Before and After School Programs (Grades PK-2)

http://www.iptv.org/iowa_database/event-detail.cfm?ID=10356

March 26, 1:00-2:30pm

Do you wish you had access to new, engaging, motivating literacy resources that were created to get kids excited about reading? How about ones that were proven by recent research studies to actually work? Join us for this ICN session sponsored by the Iowa Afterschool Alliance to learn about these free resources and how to use them with your program. Trista Peitzman of Iowa Public Television will give an overview of PBS KIDS programs and resources that are available to you. We will watch video clips from the programs, view games online, and learn how you can engage your students in learning activities.

Impact After School Training Series Communications Institute

There is still space available for the upcoming Communications Institutes workshops being conducted by State Public Policy Group. Workshops will be held at the Courtyard Marriott in Ankeny from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the following dates:

- » Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm; *Promotion of Afterschool to Stakeholder Sectors*
- » Wednesday, April 14, 2010, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm; *Strategic Communications and Action Plan Development*
- » May ICN Session TBD; *Action Plan Implementation Discussion and Technical Assistance*

Registration Fee: \$72.00 per attendee (This is a one-time fee for all sessions and includes food and beverage, as well as any materials required for the training.) Please contact Michelle Rich at mrich@sppg.com or 515-243-2000 for more information and to register.

Join the Coalition for Community Schools for their 2010 National Forum

On April 7-9, the Coalition for Community Schools will host a national forum in Philadelphia on "Building Innovative Partnerships for Student Success: The Key to America's Future."

This year's forum will celebrate the partnerships that are at the heart of the community schools approach: bringing schools, families, community residents, higher education and an array of other community partners together around a common goal of student success.



Innovation is the word of the day in education reform, as the U.S. Department of Education rolls out its new education reform strategy. Community schools are an innovation that is turning around student performance as it builds on the principle that schools are inextricably connected to their communities and best educate students when they function as centers of community. To register for the forum, please visit <http://www.communityschools.org/>.



Local Elected Officials Invited to National City Afterschool Summit

Mayors, city council members, and business community partners are invited to attend the third *National City Afterschool Summit*, to be held *April 19-21, 2010*, at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in *Washington, D.C.* Sponsored by the YEF Institute in partnership with the Afterschool Alliance and with support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Summit will help municipal leaders and their partners in the business community make the case for the importance of high-quality out-of-school time programs for children and youth in strengthening the local workforce; network with peers to learn city strategies for afterschool financing and partnerships; recognize municipal champions for afterschool; and hear from national experts and Congressional leaders on federal and state support for afterschool. This year's Summit will be held in conjunction with the Afterschool Alliance's Afterschool for All Challenge and the National Afterschool Association's annual convention. Municipal leaders attending the Summit will have the opportunity to interact with more than 2,500 afterschool providers and advocates. City officials are encouraged to invite business community leaders to join them to discuss using afterschool programs to contribute to local workforce and economic development goals - the primary focus of this year's event. For more information, contact Lane Russell at (202) 626-3008 or russell@nlc.org.

To learn more about the Summit, please visit <http://www.nlc.org/IYEF/education/afterschool/summit.aspx>.

National Partnership for After School Science (NPASS) Resources

The Center for Science Education (CSE) at the Education Development Center (EDC) and the Lawrence Hall of Science in Berkeley, California (LHS), are leading a national initiative to promote long-term professional development in project-based science for after-school program providers. The project is developing materials and training institutes to support a network of professional trainers from children's museums, science centers, and 4-H affiliates across the country, who provide regular training and support to community-based organizations that implement high-quality, hands-on science and engineering projects with children. For more information, contact Lori Connors-Tadros at lctadros@financeproject.org or visit the website at <http://cse.edc.org/npass/>.

The Outdoor Youth Summit

The Commission on Volunteer Service and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources are working to bring people together to address the problem of "nature deficit disorder". The first plan of action is to hold the Outdoor Youth Summit on April 10, 9am to 5pm and April 11, 8am to noon (April 11 is optional), to gather ideas from teams of youth and adults throughout the state and organize those ideas into state and local plans for getting more kids outdoors. The Summit will be held at Springbrook State Park. If you would like to

register a team of one to two adult mentors and three to four young people (elementary age to twenty-four) who possess a passion for efforts that get more children and youth outdoors, please contact Burke at bmilnes@sppg.com for registration information. Registration fees covering meals and breaks are \$50 dollars for a team of four and \$10 per additional team member.



Technical Assistance Systems Builders Collaborative

Afterschool Investments Project staff will join other technical assistance system builders and professional development experts from throughout the country in a learning community. The Technical Assistance System Builders Collaborative is funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, After School Assistance Providers Connect (ASAPconnect) and the National Institute for Out of School Time (NIOST). At three meetings in the upcoming year, members of the learning network will meet to promote collaboration, share and disseminate innovations and identify promising practices in building effective statewide TA delivery systems supporting after school programs. For more information, contact Rocio Abundis-Rodriguez, ASAPconnect, rocio@afterschoolconnect.org, 408-722-1263 or Ellen Gannett, NIOST, egannett@wellesley.edu, 781-283-2544.

Funding Opportunities

Grants for Literacy Promotion

The National Book Foundation is accepting nominations for the Innovations in Reading Prize, awarded to individuals or organizations that have fostered and supported a lifelong love of reading. Several cash prizes of up to \$2,500 will be awarded to the recipients that demonstrate innovation, creativity and risk-taking in their approach. *To read about last year's winners, and for more information, visit* <http://nationalbook.org/>.

Federal Funding For Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs

The Office of Adolescent Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will soon announce the availability of competitive grants to a broad range of public and private entities for effective and promising teen pregnancy prevention programs. This important initiative will provide \$75 million for replicating programs that have been shown through rigorous evaluation to have positive effects on teens' behavior, and \$25 million for research and demonstration on promising programs. Visit <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/federal/funding/default.aspx> for the latest available information on these opportunities.

Reminder

As we continue our work in promoting afterschool programs, below are words from a famous figure to remind us why we do the work we do.

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to never stop questioning."

- Albert Einstein